

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
November 6, 2017 - 4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Mr. Ed Klimek, Ms. Linda Teener, Mr. Darrell Edie, Mr. Brian Thomason, and Mr. Curt Herrman.

Absent: Mr. Mark Bachamp and Mr. Dave Schafer.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Ms. Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Ms. Melissa Kirkwood, Community Relations Officer; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. John Adam, Senior Planner-Long Range; Mr. Mark Lee, Traffic Engineer; and Lindsay Stucki, Park Planner Intern.

Guests: Mr. Jared Tremblay, Transportation Planning Analyst for Flint Hills MPO.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Teener, seconded by Mr. Herrman, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 2, 2017. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BICYCLE AND TRAILS UPDATE

Mr. Eastes introduced Mr. John Adam, Senior Planner-Long Range, and Mr. Mark Lee, Traffic Engineer, staff liaisons to the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to provide an update on the status of current and planned bicycle-pedestrian projects. In May 2017, a number of events occurred for Bike Month. A new bike map was created and distributed this year. About 200 maps were distributed at the International Student event at Kansas State University. Three new bike racks were installed downtown this year one in Aggieville and two near the mall. New fix-it stands were installed this year, one at Fire Station #3, one at the Casement Trailhead, and one to be installed at City Park. Safe routes to school project is updating four locations this year. Seven sidewalk projects and intersection improvements around the City are planned for 2018. The committee is looking for 2018 CIP project recommendations. Mr. Adam presented an overview of the bicycle and pedestrian planning for the City of Manhattan. Mr. Thompson provided an update on trails for the board. In 2017, a trail use evaluation, trail condition assessment, and trail counts were conducted. Mr. Thompson covered a number of 2017 trail improvements and accomplishments and the 2018 trail project list. A majority of the 2018 projects fill gaps in the trail system or grow the trail system and improve connectivity with a loop around the community. The 55 trail segment projects are coordinated with the Safe Routes to School Plan and the Bicycle Plans. Mr. Jared Tremblay, Transportation Planning Analyst for the Flint Hills MPO, shared information on the automated bike and pedestrian counts. A part of the Kansas Department of Transportation grant was showing the impact of the improvements to trails from the funds provided by KDOT. The counters were set up on the trail in City Park and the bike boulevards around City Park. Mr. Tremblay shared the pedestrian counts that were captured from the counters to date. Mr. Tremblay indicated that a connection with Tuttle Creek State Park and City of Manhattan is desirable for the Wildlife and Parks Department.

Mr. Klimek asked if the 2018 trail projects are funded. Mr. Thompson shared that most of the trail projects do have identified funding sources. Some of the projects are funded through grants, other projects are 2018 CIP projects, and some are past CIP projects. The signage would be an operational expense for the

department. The majority of the projects already have other city sources or grants funding them regardless of the vote on November 7, 2017. Mr. Klimek asked about completing the loop for Linear Trail. Mr. Thompson indicated the City plans to complete a loop. Some of the trail might be sidewalks and paths. Mr. Klimek asked about the lack of trails along Marlatt between Dennison and Browning. Mr. Thompson indicated that the section is involved in Linear Trail Phase B planning. Mr. Klimek asked if Mr. Tremblay works with the Green Apple Bike program. Mr. Tremblay indicated that he does work with the Green Apple Bike program.

100 DIX DRIVE UPDATE

Mr. Eastes shared that the City of Manhattan recently acquired the property at 100 Dix Drive. The area is within a FEMA floodplain and will be managed as open space by Manhattan Parks and Recreation. Mr. Thompson shared background information on the project. The City hosted a neighborhood meeting on May 25, 2017, to inform neighborhood residents about the acquisition and hear their ideas to turn the 0.2 acre site into a neighborhood amenity. Parks and Rec staff prepared four concepts showing possible site improvements, and presented those ideas at a second meeting held on October 24, 2017. Ms. Stucki shared the four concepts with the board. The Yard is designed to be a passive park with paths and benches for resting. The Playce is an active recreation area with basketball court, playground, and a shelter. The Grove is designed to commemorate the structure and provide a meditative relaxing space with movable seating. A grove of trees would outline where the property once stood. The Resurgence tells the story of the site by incorporating a narrative of the river and the picnic structure. A “river” would be constructed with vibrant and vivid vegetation. The neighborhood initially had preference to the Playce design, but the consensus at the end of the meeting was moving forward with the Resurgence concept with suggested modifications.

Mr. Hoermann indicated that he thought both Playce and Resurgence were viable options. Mr. Thompson asked the board for feedback on a recommendation for the design concept. Mr. Thomason asked if Resurgence has lighting incorporated into the design. Mr. Thompson indicated that lighting will be considered, but that the property is in a flood plain and electrical improvements need to be properly planned. Ms. Teener asked if the structure was acceptable considering the flood plain. Mr. Thompson shared that the flood plain manager had been consulted and since water can pass through the structure it was acceptable. Mr. Edie indicated that he liked the suggested improvements, but would like to see some type of barrier to keep children out of the street on Casement. Mr. Klimek asked about connectivity to Linear Trail with the park. Mr. Thompson shared the section of sidewalk along Casement from Linear Trail to the Dix property. Mr. Klimek asked about funding for the design concepts. Mr. Thompson indicated that the funding could be a future CIP project or incremental funding through the operations budget for the department. Ms. Teener felt the low impact design was better for the neighborhood and that the neighborhood preference should be recognized.

VOTE

Mr. Klimek indicated that the ballot would contain a sales tax initiative question for the community. Mr. Eastes asked the community to vote tomorrow. Ms. Kirkwood shared the community education opportunities that the department participated in and encouraged the community to vote. Mr. Edie shared that the gymnasium space would enhance the community and help with the limited availability of indoor space for recreation. Mr. Klimek shared that the project is a great example of the City partnering with the school district.

MISCELLANEOUS

None.

STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Shoemaker shared that Spooktacular brought about 5,500 people to the zoo. In the month of October, the zoo participated in Safari Adventure Day and hosted 400 K-6 students from Manhattan. The zoo staff educated the students on animals, conservation, and culture. The zoo hosted a Girl Scout recognition event for local troops. Winter hours started on November 1st and the zoo is open from noon until 5pm.

Mr. Smithson shared park division projects. The West tennis courts are receiving a new surface to prepare for spring tennis for the high school. The fence around the Rose Garden is emphasizing the entrance and exit of the area. The Mayor Holiday Parade entries are being accepted for the December 1st parade. Triangle Park lighting and installation are going to incur next week. On December 2nd, the second annual Red Cedar Holiday Harvest will take place at Lee Mill Heights. The ice rink has been setup and is scheduled to open Monday. Mr. Klimek shared that the Triangle Park lights have had a major upgrade.

Mr. Thompson noted that the Southeast Neighborhood Recreation Center design contract will be on the City Commission Agenda for tomorrow evening. A public meeting will be held on November 8th for flood plain property acquisitions in the Village Drive area. Mr. Thompson mentioned that the zoo master plan process is underway and a community survey will be distributed shortly. A proposal was received from K-State Landscape Architect studio to design concepts for Warner Park for a March-April class project. Mr. Klimek asked about the range of survey participants. Mr. Thompson indicated that Cherry Hill, Miller Ranch, Lee Mill Heights and residents south of the park participated in the survey.

Mr. Clifford provided an update on the Recreation Division. The ice rink opens on November 13th. Fall outdoor programs are winding down. Indoor programs are getting started. In October, the Punt, Pass & Kick event hosted 78 participants. The Little Apple Glow Paddle had 103 registrants. The Red Cedar Holiday Harvest event will happen on December 2nd. The Recreation Staff is preparing for the Winter/Spring activity guide and transitioning to a new software at the beginning of the year.

Ms. Kirkwood shared that she has been busy with 43 speaking engagements and events for the vote. She has been distributing trail guides and activity guides along with those events. The ice rink panels will have advertising on Parks and Recreation offerings. The website has been updated and contain information about the current projects and events for the department. Ms. Kirkwood has been focused on educating the community for the sales tax initiative on the ballot tomorrow.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared that we had a Master of Public Administration student to evaluate our facility reservation process. The student found that the department has 29 different forms for facility reservation. The new recreation software can potentially hold credit card information as opposed to collecting a deposit for facility reservations. We will be exploring that process and bring it back to the board in December or January. The department typically provides a year-end pool report for the City Commission and will share that with the board as well. The Jorgenson trail process will be updated at a future meeting. The zoo master plan will be provided to the board during the first quarter of 2018. We will update the board on the Warner Park planning process at a later date. The plaza and lighting for Johnny Kaw will also be a future agenda topic as the grassroots committee continues to fundraise for that project.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Klimek asked the school board members to address Bishop Stadium and the lockdown of the stadium to the public. Mr. Edie indicated that the school is working to address security issues at the stadium. At the present time, it is expected to be locked down through February. The two middle schools have open tracks that are available for public use. Mr. Herrman indicated that it was unfortunate that the vandalism and attempts to break in to the concession and locker room areas created the need to lock down the facility. The school board is looking into security cameras for the facility.

Meeting Adjourned.